SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Kindly replace the title currently appearing with the following:

TITLE: ALTERNATE POLYMER EXTRUSION DIE ~~SYSTEM AND METHOD~~ WITH REDUCED DROOL

Page 2, line 1, substitute the following new title:

ALTERNATE POLYMER EXTRUSION DIE ~~SYSTEM AND METHOD~~ WITH REDUCED DROOL.

Page 15, substitute for the paragraph beginning at line 6, the following:

On the other hand, as shown in Fig. 3, the extrudate can be directed through a vacuum chamber 51 of a vacuum sizer 50 to lower the pressure on the outside of the tube 53 ~~60~~ while keeping atmospheric pressure inside. This is vacuum sizing. It is customary in vacuum sizing to have a constraint so that the vacuum pulls the tubing up against the inside of a set of sizing rings 54, or a sizing tube. This constrains the diameter, so that it is not dependent just on the differential in pressure, but is brought up to a level determined by the inside diameter of the rings or the sizing tube.

Page 15, substitute for the partial paragraph beginning at line 13 and continuing through line 22, the following:

Obviously, both gas insertion and vacuum sizing depend on the difference in pressure from that inside the tube to that outside. The exterior constraint used in the vacuum system is the main difference. In general, gas insertion is used for the smaller tubing, while vacuum sizing is used for larger. There are two reasons for this. First, with large tubing, the gas put inside the tube tends to run out of the end. Second, it is harder to keep the tubing round as the diameter gets larger with free air. Using sizing rings 54, or a sizing tube, vacuum sizing keeps the extrudate round. A vacuum sizer 50 after the die 31, as shown diagrammatically in Fig. 3, overcomes the tendency of the outside diameter of the tube 60 to change as the tube goes from one polymer to the other. Only if a reduction in diameter which would otherwise occur is large enough and sudden enough, would it break the vacuum by breaking the sealing engagement of